

Friends of Milngavie Reservoir (FoMR)

Position Paper – Reservoir Supervisor/Ranger Service

Background:

It is FOMR's firm contention that Scottish Water should employ a reservoir supervisor/ranger service. Provision of such a service was Clause 4f of the Legal Agreement between SW and EDC, required for planning permission for the Katrine Water Project, and we call upon SW now to honour that agreement. (See below* for details of Clause 4f)

The reservoir supervisor/ranger service could fulfil a number of vital roles:

- **Safety.** While the reservoir offers a number of opportunities for recreation there have been serious accidents. A full-time ranger could help prevent future tragedies by reminding visitors about the dangers posed by the deep and cold water, stop teenagers going swimming and alerting others to the potentially dangerous steep banks.
- **Security.** As eyes and ears on the ground, a ranger could also deter anti-social behaviour and flouting of by-laws.
- **Education.** The reservoir has a fabulous history which never pales with the telling. The area also offers many other educational opportunities. There is a role for public liaison: to cover the informal as well as the formal, i.e. casual questions and information, directions etc.
- **Parking.** The reservoir is blighted by illegal and inconsiderate parking. A ranger could enforce parking restrictions and allow only disabled badge holders access to the site.
- **Handy person.** A ranger could also be expected to carry out minor repairs such as fencing, or at least notify SW when such issues arise. The ranger could monitor work carried out by Contractors when on site, provide access/keys and ensure that the site is left in a tidy condition.
- **Volunteering.** A ranger could coordinate volunteer activities and by having a presence at the reservoir would ensure these activities were carried out on a rolling programme.

Conclusion:

FoMR supports the action detailed in Scottish Water's (Milngavie Reservoirs Conservation and Recreation Management Plan 2005 (P52, Section 8.18) that says: There would be advantages to extending the services of the ranger service to cover Milngavie Reservoir. This would allow 'hands on' education provision and coordination of educational activities between Mugdock Country Park and Milngavie Reservoirs.

This service could operate from the visitor centre (Commissioners Cottage as was seen by FOMR as potentially fulfilling this function) and could host educational groups, give guided tours, and coordinate volunteer activities. The presence of the Ranger Service would also have security benefits both in deterring anti-social behaviour and reminding visitors of safety issues and by-laws if required.

*Clause 4f of the agreement states: "Submit to the Council for approval a detailed description of services similar to those services currently provided by the Mugdock Country Park Ranger Service which are to be provided at the Milngavie Reservoirs and which conform generally with the aims set out in paragraph 4.5 of the "Rangers in Scotland: SNH Policy Statement (1997)", and thereafter provide, or procure, the provision of the approved services in accordance with the approved details or amended details or amended details approved by the Council."

Prepared: November 2020

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